

Appl. No. 10/762,346  
Amdt. Dated April 19, 2005  
Reply to Office Action January 27, 2005

**REMARKS**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,236,478 to Lewis and in view of U.S. patent No. 4,227,314 to Hight.

5           Claim 1 has been amended to point out distinct features of the invention which have are not taught nor suggested by the references cited by the Examiner. In particular, the interior chamber of the lint trap has unobstructed walls that are sealed together at at least two  
10 interior corners and the filter is slidably engaged in those two interior corners.

As the Examiner will appreciate, the inlet receives air from a clothes dryer where the air is bearing moisture and lint fibers which are trapped by the filter before  
15 moist air exits the outlet. Such lint traps are cleaned manually by removing the cover and filter. The interior chamber of the rectangular enclosure is usually coated with lint fibers as well and cleaning requires the user to wipe their hand or a cloth on the interior corners and surfaces  
20 of the lint trap to clean out accumulated lint fibers.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the interior walls are unobstructed which has significant bearing on the manufacture and cleaning of this device. In manufacturing, of course the less parts required, the less expensive the  
25 material and labour involved in assembling the device.

U.S. Patent No. 4,227,315 to Hight shows a rectangular chamber having supports 17 and 16 for the filter element 18 which in Figure 1 are illustrated as sharp edged sheet metal strips. Not only does assembly of these supports 16  
5 and 17 involve more material and labour to fabricate, they also serve to impede airflow and encourage collection of lint fibers. The presence of the support 16 and 17 therefore has the disadvantage that the trap is more expensive and time consuming to produce. The supports 16  
10 and 17 serve to trap lint fibers which may also trap or attract moisture which imposes the risk of corrosion, mould and mildew. Further, the supports 16 and 17 impede cleaning and may subject the hands of the user to accidental cuts and abrasion during cleaning. For these  
15 reasons, the use of unobstructed sidewalls and mounting of the filter in at least two corners of the enclosure as claimed in the present invention are patentably distinguishable over the reference cited.

In a like manner, U.S. Patent No. 5,237,478 during  
20 manufacture requires the provision and installation of channel elements 48 to 50 to support the filter tray 22. Again, these supporting elements increase the cost and complexity of manufacture. In operation, the slide elements will tend to obstruct cleaning, attract lint  
25 fibers and trap moisture to raise the risk of corrosion, mould and mildew.

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Therefore, the present invention is distinguished over the references cited by the Examiner by providing unobstructed walls sealed together at interior corners and mounting of the filter into the two interior corners  
5 without requiring additional structures such as rails or supports. Further, the unobstructed interior of the enclosure makes it easier to clean, does not impose accidental risks on the user and does not provide additional means by which lint fibers can be attracted and  
10 attract moisture to increase the risk of corrosion, mould and mildew.

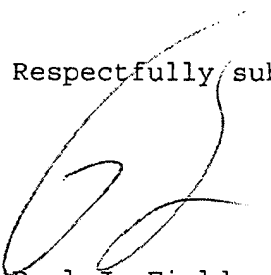
Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's objection is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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